

PARTIAL TRANSCRIPTION - ORIGINAL FOLLOWS

I regret the delay in responding to your letter of May 10 and your earlier correspondence concerning assistance to Afghan refugees and to the Afghan freedom fighters which was referred by the White House to the Department of State for reply.

The United States is working for the reestablishment of a genuinely independent, non-aligned and neutral Afghanistan, in which the Afghan people can be free to choose their own government without outside interference. We, together with the vast majority of the world community, believe that the essential element to any political solution in Afghanistan is the complete and total withdrawal of all Soviet troops.

July 4, 1981

I regret the delay in responding to your letter of May 19 and your earlier correspondence concerning assistance to Afghan refugees and to the Afghan freedom fighters which was referred by the White House to the Department of State for reply.

The United States is working for the reestablishment of a genuinely independent, non-aligned and neutral Afghanistan, in which the Afghan people can be free to choose their own government without outside interference. We, together with the vast majority of the world community, believe that the essential element to any political solution in Afghanistan is the complete and total withdrawal of all Soviet troops.

Virtually the entire population in Afghanistan is united in a nationalist struggle to rid that nation of the Soviet invader. Throughout Afghanistan, nationalist forces are holding the Soviet army to a standoff. The Afghan freedom fighters have successfully acquired many weapons on their own, including those taken from the Soviets in battle and those brought with them by defecting Afghan army troops joining the nationalist struggle.

The President has made clear this nation's strong opposition to the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan. He has also voiced our sympathy and admiration for the Afghan people in their courageous struggle against Soviet aggression. The question of how we can best help bring home to the Soviets the full cost of their aggression is one which is under constant study at the highest levels.

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In regard to assistance for the Afghan refugees who have sought safe haven in Pakistan, international contributions in 1980 for food, medicines, shelter and other related relief activities came to over \$100 million. The share of the US government in this total was \$44 million. Our contributions so far in 1981 have come to \$93 million, with the possibility of even more should the need arise.

I hope that this information is helpful to you.

In regard to assistance for the Afghan refugees who have sought refuge in Pakistan, international contributions in 1981 for food, medicines, shelter and other related relief activities came to over \$100 million. The share of the US Government in this total was \$44 million. US contributions so far in 1981 have come to \$23 million, with the possibility of even more should the need arise.

I hope that this information is helpful to you.

Sincerely,

*Dennis Murphy*  
Dennis Murphy  
Country Officer for  
Pakistan

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